of violence by militants have been reported resulting in 82 deaths.

(c) and (d) To counter the extortion drive by militants, Government has further stepped up measures to nab militants. Steps taken in this regard include, interalia, deployment of Para-Military Forces and Army in the State, Coordinated action by Army, Para-Military & State police for Counter insurgency operations, declaration of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Democratic front of Boroland (NDFB) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland NSCN(I) as unlawful associations under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Enquiry into recent Uphaar Cinema Fire Accident

68. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received the report of the Enquiry Committee set up by Delhi Government to look into recent Uphaar Cinema Hall Fire incident;

(b) if so, the details of the report indicating the salient features thereof and Government's reaction thereto about steps taken so far on the report;

(c) whether the Central Government had also set up a separate enquiry about the incident, if so, the status of inquiry so conducted; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the functioning of Delhi Fire Service which has failed to implement the safety norms resulting into number of fire incidents occurring in Delhi every year particulary during summer season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAOBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The report has concluded that all the agencies concerned including the management of Uphaar Cinema have to share the blame for their acts of Ommission & Commission which contributed to the tragedy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government of NCT of Delhi reviews the functioning of Delhi Fire Service from time to time. Further, a comprehensive review of the laws relating to fire services/fire prevention etc. has been initiated.

दिल्ली में पुलिस हिरासत में तथा जेलों में हुई आत्महत्या की घटनायें

69. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान दिल्ली में पुलिस हिरासत में तथा जेलों में कितने व्यक्तियों ने आत्महत्या की;

(ख) उनके द्वारा आत्महत्या किये जाने के क्या कारण पाये गये;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में कोई पुलिस अधिकारी या जेल अधिकारी दोषी पाया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) और (ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान पुलिस हिरासत में और तिहाड़ जेल, दिल्ली में जिन लोगों ने आत्महत्या की, उनकी सूचित संख्या इस प्रकार है:-

वर्ष	आत्महत्या के मामलों की संख्या	
	पुलिस हिरासत में	तिहाड़ जेल में
1994	—	4
1995	1	4
1996	1	3

केवल पांच मामलों में ही अपमृत्यु परीक्षा रिपोर्टें प्राप्त हुई हैं। दो मामलों में जहां इन अपमृत्यु परीक्षा रिपोर्टों में आत्महत्या के कारणों के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा गया है वहीं शेष तीन मामलों के संबंध में अपमृत्यु परीक्षा रिपोर्टों में यह उल्लेख है कि आत्महत्या करने के कारण हैं—मानसिक तनाव और पश्चाताप, नशे की आदत।

(ग) और (घ) जहां तिहाड़ जेल में आत्महत्याओं के मामलों में कोई जेल अधिकारी लिप्त नहीं पाया गया वहीं दिल्ली पुलिस ने ड्यूटी में लापरवाही बरतने के लिए एक पुलिस अधिकारी के विरुद्ध एक मामले में विभागीय जांच के आदेश दिए गए हैं।

Review of Security Arrangements in North-East

70. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the continue unrest and hostilities including recent attack on Assam Chief Minister, Government have reviewed the security arrangements in the North-East; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to augment the security in this region and to effectively curb Bodo and other tribal hostilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Insurgency situation in North-East States is reviewed continuously from time to time by the Central Government and Central Para Military Forces and the Army are deployed depending upon the requirement of the situation.

To contain the growing menace of ULFA and other outfit, the Army, Para Military Forces and Police are maintaining constant vigil. Induction of additional units of CPMF and the Army have been done. Intelligence machinery has been strengthened. Regular review at Central and State level is being done.

Article 356 of the Constitution

71. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee to go into the use Article 356 of the Constitution, in the context of desirability of augmenting and promoting the federal aspect thereof, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations and observations; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The question of amending article 356 of the Constitution of India was considered by the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council in its various meetings. There was, however, no unenimity among the members of the standing Committee over the issue. The main points of divergance were as follows:

(i) whether the Union Government can issue show cause notice in exceptional circumstances without the Governor's report.

(ii) Need for provision to invoke article 356 without notice if the State Government encourages action posing threat to

(a) Secular fabric of society.

(b) National security and integrity.

(iii) Whether approval of parliament should precede or follow the proclamation.

(iv) Whether approval should be with simple or two-thirds majority.

Efforts will continue to evolve a consensus on the issue.